

## EXTRACTS FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

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### "RACIAL LABORATORIES OF THE PACIFIC"

"The investigator in human biology proper must rely on observations and comparisons, for quite obviously he cannot in the case of human groups resort to experiment. He must study societies as they exist, preferably in relatively primitive and simple forms and so far as possible in isolation from one another.

*"There are many things which the scientists want to know about the so-called primitive peoples. Measurements of heads and bodies are processes of nutrition, and other physiological facts are significant; susceptibility to communicable diseases throws light on problems of natural or acquired immunity; general intelligence as tested by ability to solve life problems, to record and use knowledge and experience, etc., has a bearing on the whole subject of human psychology; that elusive something called temperament has meaning for science; social organization for leadership and control is full of interest; handicrafts, tools, ornaments, customs, legends, music, ceremonies, religion, repay the most careful study; attempts to discover the causes of individual and group survival or decay are of value; and not the least is the desire to get evidence about the migration and distribution of races."*

"The islands of the Pacific offer exceptional advantages for investigating racial and social problems. The Polynesian people in Hawaii, Samoa, the Marquesas, the Society Islands, Ellice Islands, etc., will repay continued study. The Melanesians in the Admiralty Islands, Bismark Archipelago, Solomon Islands, New Hebrides, Fiji, and other islands offer a wide and fruitful field for investigation. Certain aboriginal groups in Australia represent one of the few examples of people in an early stage of development. Hawaii is a unique center for the investigation of racial crossing, cultural interaction, and social relationships. These various opportunities are not permanent. Some of the peoples are disappearing, others are being rapidly Westernized. If further and more systematic studies are to be made, too much time must not be lost.

"Australia, which under the League of Nations holds mandates for the more important of the Melanesian Islands, is following an enlightened policy in training administrators for these areas. A department of anthropology has been established in the University of Sydney. Here, in addition to research, special courses will be given for government officials to prepare them to deal intelligently and sympathetically with the native peoples. In time this should result not only in the protection of the Melanesians but in adding to our knowledge of their characteristics and social life. The Australian aborigines who constitute a quite separate problem are also to be studied by members of the staffs of Australian universities. The Foundation, through the Division of Studies, has pledged funds for cooperation with the agencies which will make these investigations, has provided special trips for two professors from Sydney and Adelaide, and has sent representatives on study visits to Hawaii, New Zealand, and Australia."

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### THE NURSE, THE HOME, THE HOSPITAL, AND THE HEALTH SERVICE

"The nurse plays an essential part in organized public-health work; she is indispensable in the teaching hospital. And just now she is a storm center. Discussion, animated, sometimes excited, busies itself with questions of her training, qualifications, fields of work, hours, pay, motives, attitude. Physicians complain that she is hard to lure to the bedsides of private patients, that she is too often overtrained in theory unduly professionalized, lacking in practicality and docility. Families find fault with the amount of her salary, the limitation of her hours, and her unwillingness to lend a hand in domestic tasks. Few people of modest means can afford to have her at all.

"The hospitals, too, cherish a grievance. They give her a sound training only to see her desert the wards to do public-health nursing, school nursing, industrial hygiene work, and the like. Some of the smaller hospitals especially are quite bitter about this exodus. One of the most frequent complaints has to do with educational requirements. These are declared to be uselessly high, too theoretical and professional, and a chief cause of keeping numbers low and costs high. All the plaintiffs tend to picture the nurse as something of a profiteer who has lost the Florence Nightingale spirit of sacrifice and service.



"What has the defendant, the graduate registered nurse, to say about these indictments? Here are some of the things she believes ought to be considered. Her education has cost her time and some money—actually a substantial sum if what she might have been earning in other work is taken into account. After an elementary school course, and often one or more years of high school, she has spent three years in a hospital. She thinks that during her period of training the hospital had a good deal of work from her on fairly cheap terms. When she has finished her course she feels that she has the right to choose between continuing in hospital service and entering the fields of private nursing or salaried public health or institutional nursing.

"Fortunately, committees which include doctors, nurses and lay people are beginning to study the problem with openmindedness and good will. They are making studies of the actual facts; they are considering the classification of nurses into three or even four kinds with appropriate training for each; they are discussing changes in the curriculum, better and more economical organization of nursing service both in the home and in the hospital, the more effective utilization of public-health nurses and means of making the nursing career more desirable. In all this the Rockefeller Foundation takes a deep interest, but it has no panacea to offer, no special program to impose."

